

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 OIC-04 RSR-01 /224 W

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P R 251715 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8958

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TU, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT: TURKISH BOP CONSULTATION AND STAMP DUTY WAIVER

REF: A. GENEVA 1661; B. ANKARA 2962

1. BOP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DUNKEL (SWITZ) MET WITH US, CANADA, EC, IMF AND SECRETARIAT APRIL 25 TO DISCUSS SCENARIO FOR MAY 1 CONSULTATION WITH TURKEY.

2. IMF (WASHINGTON REP NOWZAD) CONFIRMED THAT BOARD DECISION WOULD NOTE TURKEY' S STRONG BOP POSITION AND COMFORTABLE RESERVES (EQUAL TO SEVEN MONTHS' IMPORTS EVEN AFTER EXCLUSION OF HOT MONEY). FUND BELIEVES SIGNIFICANT LIBERALIZATION INDICATED BUT FEELS QR RELAXATION PREFERABLE TO REDUCTION/ ELIMINATION OF STAMP DUTY. REVENUE FROM STAMP DUTY STILL REQUIRED TO COMBAT INFLATION, AND POLITICAL REALITIES PRECLUDE SHIFT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, AT LEAST IN NEAR TERM. IN
ADDITION IMF CONSIDERS SURCHARGES LIKE STAMP DUTY
PREFERABLE TO QRS.

3. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TURKS MAY TREAT
CONSULTATION AS SEMI- MEANINGLESS FORMALITY AND SUGGESTED
HE MAKE CLEAR TO LOCAL TURKISH REPS THAT COMMITTEE PLANS
COMPLETE REVIEW OF TURKISH IMPORT SYSTEM AND WILL
PROBABLY PRESS FOR SIGNIFICANT LIBERALIZATION. US AND
CANADA CONCURRED BUT LOCAL COMMISSION REP FRESI EXPECTED
EC WOULD BE NEUTRAL. FRESI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMUNITY
WOULD PROBABLY NOT OPPOSE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION URGING
GREATER LIBERALIZATION.

4. ONLY PARTICIPANT WITH INSTRUCTIONS WAS CANADA, WHICH
TOOK LINE SIMILAR TO REF (B) BUT WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON
NON- DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF TURKISH RESTRICTIONS.
(CHAIRMAN NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITTEE SPLIT SEEMED
INEVITABLE ON THAT ISSUE.) CANADA ALSO SAID FOUR- AND- HALF
YEAR WAIVER EXTENSION WOULD BE TOO LONG, BUT CHAIRMAN
THOUGHT SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOUND IN REQUIRING MID- TERM REVIEW
AT 1975 BOP CONSULTATION.

5. SECRETARIAT SAID IT HAD RECEIVED SOME INDICATION
GOT WILL SEND ANKARA OFFICIAL (ALPER) TO REPRESENT
TURKEY MAY 1. IF SUITABLE OCCASION ARISES, EMBASSY
ANKARA MAY WISH TO ENCOURAGE THIS AS LOCAL REPRESENTA-
TION WOULD VIRTUALLY ENSURE UNPROFITABLE CONSULTATION
(CF. GENEVA 5216, NOV. 28). RIMESTAD

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